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Eminem Reloading His Movie Career With Bounty-Hunter Role

Rapper/actor will star in movie remake of 1950s TV series 'Have Gun -- Will Travel.'

By Gil Kaufman

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June 13, 2006 / 7:54 AM

After a long break following his treatment for addiction to sleeping medication and the death of his best friend Proof, Eminem is relaunching his career ... on the big screen. The rapper is attached to star in a movie remake of the 1950s TV drama "Have Gun -- Will Travel," according to *Variety* magazine.

The follow-up to his movie debut in 2002's semi-autobiographical "8 Mile" will find Em shedding the music angle and going straight for drama in a contemporary retelling of the story of Paladin, a literate, rugged professional gunfighter for hire. In the original series, which ran on CBS from 1957-1963, Richard Boone played Paladin as a tough guy who hung around a San Francisco hotel waiting for people to respond to the offer on his business card, which read "Have Gun, Will Travel ... wire Paladin, San Francisco."

Variety reports that the show's concept will be updated to contemporary times and feature Eminem playing a bounty hunter, possibly based out of the rapper's hometown of Detroit. The movie is being produced by Interscope/ Shady/ Aftermath Films, with producer credits going to Interscope boss Jimmy Iovine and Eminem's manager, Paul Rosenberg.

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Rosenberg told *Daily Variety* that the movie will be a revamp of the original series, with some characters based loosely on ones from the series and a few references to storylines from the original. While the movie will be an action-based drama, Em will likely be involved in either scoring the film or performing on the soundtrack.

There's no definite timetable for the movie, but *Variety* reports that producers and Paramount Pictures are trying to get it on the fast track. Paramount has been looking for a good "8 Mile" follow-up, and Em and his camp reportedly had a hard time finding something they were happy with. "When this property essentially became available we discussed it and brought it to Marshall and he was very intrigued and excited about the concept," Rosenberg said.

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